

By His Excellency. Benjamin Fletcher, Captain General and Governour in chief of the Province of New York, Province of Pennsylvania, County of New-Castle, and territories and tract of land depending thereon, in America, and vice admiral of the same. A proclamation [against breaking of the Lord's day, all prophane swearing, etc.] Given under my hand at Philadelphia, the 29th day of April, 1693, in the fifth year of their Majesties reign. Ben. Fletcher. God save King William & Queen Mary. [Philadelphia

By His Excellency

Benjamin Fletcher, Captain General and Governour in Chief of the Province of New-York, Province of Pennsylvania, Country of New-Castle and Territories and Tracts of Land depending thereon, in America, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION

WHereas our Sovereign Lord and Lady *William and Mary*, by the Grace of God of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland*, King and Queen, Defenders of the Faith, &c. have thought fit to take Their Province of *Pennsilvania*, and Country of *New-Castle*, &c. into Their Immediate Care and Government, and by Their Letters Pattents under the Great Seal of *England*, Commissionated and Appointed Me Their Captain General and Governour in Chief in and over the said Province and Country, By Virtue of the Powers and Authorities thereby to me given, and in pursuance of their Majesties gracious Commands, for the Encouragement of Virtue and good Living, and Discouragement of Vice, In *Their Majesties Name* I do hereby strictly prohibit the *Breaking of the LORDS DAY*, all *Prophane Swearing, Cursing, Drunkenness, Idleness and unlawful Gaming*, and all manner of *Prophaneness whatsoever*. And I do hereby Require all *Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Constables*, and other *Officers* throughout the said Province and Country, That they take effectual Care that such Laws and Ordinances as are provided against *Breaking of the Lords Day, prophane Swearing, Cursing, Drunkenness, Idleness and unlawful Gaming*, and all other *Prophaneness whatsoever*, be duely executed against Offenders in that behalf. Given under my Hand at *Philadelphia* the 29th day of *April*, 1693. in the Fifth Year of Their Majesties Reign.

Ben. Fletcher.

God Save King William & Queen Mary.

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STUYVESANT FISH 52 WALL STREET

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RECEIVED MAR 8 1915 SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Enc NEW YORK March 5, 1915.

My dear Mr. Putnam:—

You may remember that on March 18, 1902, I sent you a photograph of a printed copy of a Proclamation by Governor Fletcher, dated April 27, [29] 1693, with an inquiry as to whether there was a duplicate thereof in the Library of Congress, to which you replied in the negative. Similar inquiries were addressed to the following institutions:— New York Historical Society; State Library, Albany, N.Y.; Public Library, New York City; Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; The Library Company, Philadelphia; Historical Society of Wisconsin; to Mr. Thos. G. Evans, then at 141 Broadway, New York, and since deceased; and to Mr. W. L. Andrews, 16 East 38th Street, New York. Through friends in London diligent inquiry was made in the British Museum, at the Colonial Office and other places where a document of this sort might be found. At a later date, through the kindness of Miss Hasse of the New York Public Library, inquiries were made in Paris of the Bibliotheque Nationale. A request was also sent to M. Le Duc de Loubat, 47 Rue Dumont d'Urville, Paris. These inquiries failed to reveal the existence of any duplicates of the imprint of Governor Fletcher's Proclamation above referred to, from which I have every reason to believe that the paper is unique. Having in this way exhausted my means of search, I am now sending you, by express, the Received 3/9/15 document itself, and enclose a photograph thereof taken in 1902, which you will not fail to notice has begun to fade.

That the broadside now sent you was printed with the types and on the press of William Bradford I have no doubt, although it does not bear his imprint. At its date and for some time previous thereto

MAR 9 1915

CORRESPONDENCE ATTA ched

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Bradford, who owned the only press in the middle colonies, was in disfavor with the Quaker hierarchy in Philadelphia. They had imprisoned him, sequestered his press and types, and enjoined him from printing. As Governor Fletcher was in Philadelphia on April 29, 1693, (the date of this

proclamation,) and had previously endeavored to bring Bradford to New York to assume the position which he afterward held for so many years as Printer to the King, the inference would seem to be that Fletcher on reaching Philadelphia, availed himself of Bradford's press to print this document. Certain it is that Bradford was liberated at about that time, and moved to New York.

The New York Historical Society Collections, 1868, contain "The Continuation of Chalmers's Political Annals," from which I quote as follows: Chap. III, p. 150: "In October 1692, he (Fletcher) was invested with the same powers of Government over Pennsylvania as had been given him over New York." with a note, No. 90, which at p. 168, gives authority for that statement. In what follows on p. 150 there are references to notes 91 and 92. Page 151 begins as follows: "Fletcher no sooner received these additional powers than he repaired to Philadelphia to execute the trust reposed in him. In April 1693 he here published his commission and assumed the government without opposition, because the Quakers obstruct by intrigue what others oppose by force." Further along in the paragraph of which the foregoing is the beginning, in line 6 of p. 152, is a reference to Note 93, which at p. 169 reads as follows: "For the foregoing facts see N. Yk. papers 4 v. F.—" I have of course been unable to verify this reference, which is itself vague, the number of the folio being omitted. Chalmers's statement that Fletcher "published his commission" in Philadelphia in April 1693 may only mean that he caused it to be read. Does it not however mean that he caused

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it to be printed? It is I presume possible for you, as it has not been for me, to ascertain by reference in London to the papers cited by Chalmers exactly what they do say. Could you ascertain this and advise me? Whatever that may be, the paper now sent you proves that the fact of Fletcher having been commissioned to govern Pennsylvania was printed at that time.

Toward the close of my letter of March 18, 1902 to you I said,—

"Dr. Billings of the New York Public Library tells me that the earliest Bradford document which they have is one of April 10, 1693, being an Act for the raising of 26,000 for the payment of three hundred volunteers, printed by William Bradford, and making six pages folio. He does not however say whether this was printed in New York or Philadelphia. I am writing him on the subject."

On April 4, 1902 Dr. Billings wrote me:—

"Your surmise is correct as to the fact that our document dated April 10, 1693, bears the imprint of William Bradford in New York City. The colophon is as follows:—

'Printed and Sold by William Bradford, Printer to King William and Queen Mary at the City of New York, 1693.'

That document could not have been printed on April 10, 1693, the date of the Act itself, but must have been printed later and after Bradford moved to New York.

As Chalmers states, the method by which the government of Pennsylvania was taken out of the hands of the proprietor, Penn, was illegal, and the putting of it into the hands of Fletcher was distasteful to and resisted by Penn in England, and the Pennsylvanians themselves. Fletcher's rule was of short duration, his commission having been revoked in August 1694. The troubles in New York with the Indians and French required Fletcher's presence there. "He departed in June 1693: Giving up the reins of the Pennsylvania government to Markham, a man needy and profligate, but of great experience, since he had been the first ruler." (Chalmers p. 153). "He nominated Markham, formerly secretary to Penn and President of the province, Lieutenant-governor." (p. 151). "Markham governed Pennsylvania with the weakness of dependent authority." (p. 153). When Penn again

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took the reins into his own hands he, in November 1694, appointed Markham to rule locally in his stead. All this with Penn's great influence in London, may account for the non-existence of other copies of this imprint here or abroad.

The broadside now sent you was given me by Mrs. Fish's mother, the late Mrs. William Henry Anthon, with the statement that she had found it among the papers left by her brother-in-law, Professor Charles Edward Anthon (b. Dec. 6, 1823; d. June 7, 1885). The latter was much given to collecting coins, manuscripts, &c., but no effort of mine has enabled me to learn where, when or how he became possessed of the paper. He must of course not be confounded with his more distinguished uncle, Professor Charles Anthon of Columbia College (b. New York, Nov. 19, 1797; d. New York Jan. 5, 1867). Prof. Chas. E. Anthon, and his younger brother William Henry Anthon, (b. August 2, 1827; d. Nov. 7, 1876) were among the thirteen children of John Anthon (b. Detroit May 14, 1784; d. New York Mar. 5, 1863) and Judith Hone, his wife. John and Charles Anthon were among the twelve children of George Christian Anthon, M.D. (b. Salzungen, in the Duchy of Saxe Meiningen, August 25, 1734; d. New York Dec. 22, 1815) by his second wife, Genevieve Jadot.

Should the gift of this broadside be accepted by the Library of Congress, I would wish that the catalogue might make some reference to this letter, as it shows the pains which have been taken through a long period in vain efforts to anywhere find a duplicate imprint thereof.



Very sincerely yours, Stuyvesant Fish

To Hon. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.